

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
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R 021648Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8191
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC, BE
SUBJECT: MANIOC IMPORTS INTO BELGIUM AND THE EC

1. DURING A RECENT MEETING WITH A MEMBER OF THE CABINET
OF THE BELGIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AGATT HAD AN
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS BELGIAN AND EC IMPORTS OF MANIOC
AND THE INFLUENCE OF SUCH IMPORTS ON THE BELGIAN LIVE-
STOCK AND MIXED FEED INDUSTRIES. OUR SOURCE CONFIRMED
THE MAJOR OBJECTIONS TO MANIOC IMPORTS WITHIN THE
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COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN RAISED BY THE FRENCH ON THE BASIS
MANIOC WAS REPLACING CORN IN LIVESTOCK RATIONS, PRIMARILY
SWINE.

2. THE BELGAN OFFICIAL INDICATED HIS BELIEF THE EC
WOULD NOT TAKE ANY RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS ON MANIOC IMPORTS,
SUCH AS INCREASING DUTIES OR LEVIES, BECAUSE OF THE

LARGE GRAIN DEFICIT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURES FROM THE LIVESTOCK AND MIXED FEED INDUSTRIES IN THE OTHER EC COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, THAILAND, THE MAJOR SUPPLIER, IS CONSIDERED AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH LIMITED EXPORT CAPABILITY AND ACTIONS TAKEN TO CURB THAI EXPORTS WOULD HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH THE COMMUNITY IS NOT READY TO FACE.

3. COMMENT. AS FAR AS BELGIUM IS CONCERNED, IMPORTS OF MANIOC FOR FEED HAVE INCREASED SHARPLY IN RECENT YEARS, RISING FROM 394,192 METRIC TONS IN 1974 TO 733,120 TONS IN 1977. THIS INCREASE IS DUE ALMOST ENTIRELY TO LARGER IMPORTS FROM THAILAND, EITHER DIRECTLY OR TRANS-SHIPED THROUGH OTHER EC COUNTRIES, PRIMARILY THE NETHERLANDS.

4. WHILE THE GROWTH IN MANIOC FEED UTILIZATION IN BELGIUM HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE, A NUMBER OF FACTORS POINT TO A POSSIBLE LEVELING OFF AND INCLUDE: 1) CURRENT USAGE WHICH IS FAIRLY HIGH; 2) RELATIVELY STABLE SWINE AND POULTRY NUMBERS; 3) PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN HANDLING THIS PRODUCT; AND 4) AVAILABLE SUPPLIES FROM THAILAND. CHAMBERS

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